

March 11, 2025

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 3554 which will improve Oregon's capacity to offer high-quality primary care. Primary care is the backbone of our healthcare system. It improves health and saves money. This is undisputed and has been replicated in research across the country. But achieving these outcomes requires that primary care practices have the independence to offer adaptable, personalized care based on the needs of the patient in front of them, whether it is a twelve-year-old girl with a sore throat who gets seen, diagnosed, and treated in clinic for strep throat on Tuesday so she can make her weekend soccer game, a 45-year-old auto mechanic who emails blood pressure measurements to his doctor so his medications can be adjusted without having to miss work, or a new mother and baby who need help signing up for WIC from a clinic's community health workers.

HB 3554 supports primary care independence, allowing practices of all sizes to continue offering personalized care to its patients. The key provisions of HB 3554 are:

**1.Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Program**

– Allocates more funding for loan repayment programs to independent practices that would otherwise face difficulties of recruitment and retention to maintain a stable workforce.

**2. Primary Care Incentive Program**

– Provides the opportunity for practices to obtain low-interest loans to support innovative, patient-centered models of care.

**3. Electronic Health Records (EHR) Support**

– Provides low-interest loans to practices for implementing or upgrading electronic health records.

**4.Health Outcome & Quality Measures Data Portal**

– Lessens administrative burden for practices by creating a centralized and standardized portal for reporting quality measures for all payers in the state.

**5.Study on Credentialing System**

– Requests a report from OHA to analyze past barriers and potential solutions for a centralized health care practitioner credentialing system.

We urge you to support HB 3554 and let primary care do what it does best: work for the people of Oregon

Sincerely



Brian Frank  
Chair, Commission on External Affairs  
Oregon Academy of Family Physicians